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825 Observation of reptiles is a necessary self-protection as there are many poisonous snakes. The flesh of the python is eaten. Snake-
[524] skin and lizard-skin are occasionally used; for example, in covering a round, hard fruit in order to make a ball for playing a game.

When collecting lizards and snakes I found that each kind had a well-known name, though there was occasional disagreement among the men consulted.

Ocisanjoko is a lizard (*Agama planiceps*) about ten inches long whose tail is covered with sharp spines. This reptile has colors of bright blue, red, and orange. *Osongu* is a large spinous gray lizard (*Agama stricoli*). *Ekanjola* (*Gerrhosaurus nigrolineatus*) is a brilliantly colored lizard which burrows deeply into the ground.

Olulanjila is a long slender green snake which hides in trees to capture birds. *Ombandanjila* is a long gray-backed snake with a light green belly. The generic name for snake is *onyoka*. The python is *omoma*. The chameleon (*elokalo*) seems to be feared, as the men and boys refuse to touch a dead one but always move it with sticks. There is a proverb to the effect that the chameleon though slow always gets there. The refusal to touch even dead reptiles is due to an exaggerated fear of being bitten. I could find no other reason.

824 Trees are of importance in connection with building houses and
313 wood-carving. The qualities of different timbers are well known to the Ovimbundu. For the main part, the collection of medicinal plants and their uses will be described in connection with the medicine-man. The following are the most common trees which are of economic importance.

Usia (pronounced *oosha*). This tree has an edible fruit the size of a walnut. The kernel is valued as a food.

Ombula. This tree provides wood which burns readily. The small skin-covered stools to be found in every hut are often made from this wood.

Ukango. The fruit has a hard rind.

[751] *Owindo*. This tree has a small acid fruit from which a medicine is made for the cure of painful menstruation.

Usilaelo. The leaf is compound and palmate. The fruit is black.

Usiambiambia. Bears a little red, oval fruit.

Usoia. Has a large red fruit.

Usombo. Grows near streams. It has a fruit like that of *okalokalo*, but smaller.

[223] *Uhaliwapa*. Has a fruit like the berry of a coffee plant. The fruit is used for making mucilage which is used for capturing small birds.

Owanda. When this tree is small, the wood is springy, and is therefore useful for making bows. The wood of the older trees is burned for preparing charcoal which is used in the blacksmith's fire.

Owanda. This is an erect tree having no branches on the lower part. The wood is extensively used in building native huts.

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Ombua. A large tree having clusters of small white flowers which are visited by bees on account of their content of honey. The tree yields a hard wood from which charcoal is prepared. The bark and leaves yield a pigment which is used for dyeing cloth a yellowish brown.

Ondi is valuable because it gives a hard wood used for the corner posts of houses. White ants do not attack this wood, which is therefore useful for making the uprights on which granaries are erected.

Ohandelongala. A tree from which planks of hard red wood are obtained. These are used for making doors in village fences.

Ombu or *ekenge* or *usenebe.* These trees have small compound leaves which are very similar. The bark of the latter two is used as rope for binding the uprights and the crosspieces in the framework of native houses. *Ekenge* and *usenebe* also yield a bark which is beaten into bark cloth in the Ngalangi district.

Ombumbo. The bark is used for binding posts, also for the fabrication of bark cloth.

Ongolo. The roots of this tree yield a dye for cloth. The leaves are said to have a value for curing sore eyes. The mother of a child afflicted with sore eyes chews the leaves, then spits into the child's eyes. [751]

Ongoye. Yields a wood used for making pestles and pounding sticks.

Onombe ("iron wood"). This tree has a hard wood which is used for the same purposes.

Onjunge. Gives a wood used in the making of houses, doors, and beehives.

Onowa. A large tree which gives planks for building purposes.

Usanje. Yields a useful red timber.

Ulondongonda. A tree with very rough bark. The word *ongonda* means a crocodile. This is the tree which even a crocodile can climb. [757]

Ongonje. A tree which yields a fruit having a value as a purgative. The antelope is said to be fond of the fruits of this tree. [223]

Ombumbulumbu. Gives a resinous fluid which is used in the preparation of lime for snaring birds.

Ulombo. This word is derived from the word *olombo*, meaning shade. The *ombala* (native capital) of Ngalangi is surrounded by such trees.

Ondo. A tree which produces yellow flowers in September. The fruit is not edible but oil is made from it.

Okalu. A tree having fragrant flowers like those of honeysuckle. The thick bark is used in making mats.

Ombe. A soft wood which is easily whittled with a knife. The figures from Bailundu (Plate XXI, Fig. 5) are often carved from this wood.

Umbolombolo. A soft wood which is not very strong.

Umbongolondo. A small tree which produces bright red fruits. These are used by women for the manufacture of bead necklaces.

Ocilasi. The wood is used for the heads of arrows for shooting birds. This timber is used in the building of pigpens. The branches have projections which are said to guard (*okulinda*, to guard) the occupants of the pen.

Itala. From the roots of this tree a medicine for pulmonary complaints is made.

Ukua. This is the baobab, whose habitat is the dry regions. Some of the trees have enormous girth. They are leafless for a great part of the year. The long fruits make gourds. The seeds in the fruits are bitter.

Ulundo (pronounced *oolundo*). From the wood the Ovimbundu make wooden platters and spoons used for serving mush from the large cooking pot.

Ongilili. This tree yields a hard red wood which takes a lustrous polish. For this reason the wood is employed for making ornamental sticks and clubs.

Upondonjombo. This small tree has roots which girls use for making ankle-bands.

824 *Okalalulaka.* This tree has leaves which are used in treating a skin disease.
813 *Usendangulure.* This small tree, only three feet in height, gives straight twigs which are used in making arrow shafts.

FOOD SUPPLY

COLLECTING AND HUNTING

222 Collecting of natural products which serve as food substances is
462 chiefly in the hands of women and children, though an exception has to be made in the instance of honey, which is gathered by men and boys.

Boys diligently search for nests, noting their location so as to be able to visit them again when the fledglings are large enough to serve as food. Large numbers of women and children may be seen
252 gathering caterpillars in gourds. The insides of the caterpillars are
222 squeezed into boiling water to make soup.

When a cloud of locusts appears, as in 1925, the creatures are gathered. They are sometimes fried, or they may be boiled in water, dried, and preserved with salt in earthenware pots.

A number of miscellaneous items of the food supply were mentioned in connection with names of trees whose fruits are gathered.

223 Boys engaged in food-gathering usually carry small bows and
[411] blunt wooden arrows (*ocillavi*). One type of bird arrow is fixed to the bowstring. The forward end of the arrow is split so that it may contain small stones that are ejected when the string is released. From the wild fig tree mucilage is obtained and this is boiled until it forms a thick paste which is smeared on the boughs of trees.
[231] Some of the small birds captured in this way are eaten, others are kept in wicker cages made by children.

343 In all parts of Angola large cylindrical beehives may be seen
171 fixed high in the trees (Plate XC, Fig. 2). Two types of hive have been noted in particular. In the Elende district a hive is made by opposing two half cylinders of wood each about three feet long, so forming a hive which has a diameter of one foot. The ends are covered, with the exception of a small round hole. The whole structure is bound round with grass which is kept in position by lashings of bark. In the neighborhood of Cassanga a difference in the structure of the hives was noted. This type of hive is made from a cylinder of strong reddish bark, the edges of which are fastened together with stout wooden pegs. The dimensions are the same as for the hive used in Elende, but the hive of bark is uncovered.

231 In the Elende district honey of wild bees is removed from the hives in the months of August and December. One man ascends

[see pp. 138-140, category 116]